

Message Text

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FOR JANICE K. BARNES, US IWC DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SENV, IWC-1

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION MEETING,
LONDON, JUNE 26-30, 1978

REF: LONDON 10141

DRAFT TEXT OF REQUESTED MATERIAL: "ACTION TAKEN CONCERNING
GRAY WHALES BY MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IN 1976 THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION ADOPTED
A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT MEXICO AND THE UNITED
STATES ESTABLISH REGULATIONS TO REDUCE HARASSMENT IN THE
GRAY WHALE BREEDING AREAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE IWC
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED RESEARCH BE
UNDERTAKEN BY THESE TWO COUNTRIES CONCERNING POSSIBLE
CHANGES IN THE MIGRATORY ROUTE OFF THE COASTS OF THE U.S.
AND MEXICO, MORTALITY OF CALVES IN THE BREEDING LAGOONS,
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CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION OF WHALES RELATED TO HUMAN ACTIVI-
TIES, AND USE OF WHALE TAGS.

ON JANUARY 11-12, 1978, MEXICO AND THE U.S. HELD
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON MARINE MAMMALS OF MUTUAL INTEREST,
INCLUDING GRAY WHALES. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THESE TWO
COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP A BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE

CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS. SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO GRAY WHALES REVIEWED THE NEED FOR MORE PROTECTION OF BREEDING LAGOONS, THE NEED FOR REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO REDUCE HARASSMENT OF THE WHALES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WILL INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, AN ANNEX ON THE GRAY WHALES WHICH WILL CONTAIN SPECIFIC PROVISIONS RELATING TO THESE AREAS OF CONCERN.

ANOTHER MEETING TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATION OF THE OVERALL BILATERAL AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE HELD IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES WILL KEEP THE COMMISSION FULLY INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY RELATE TO THE GRAY WHALES." VANCE

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